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1997

This publication provides information from the 1997 Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, based on the responses of 2,245 Wisconsin adults (ages 18 and older). Results were weighted to represent the 2.8 million adults ages 18-54, and 1.2 million ages 55 and older, living in Wisconsin households.

..... **HEALTH STATUS**

	Age Groups					
	<i>All Adults</i>		<i>18-54</i>		<i>55 +</i>	
	<u>%</u>	<u>(+/-%)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>(+/-%)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>(+/-%)</u>
• Health in general is:		*		*		*
Excellent or Very good	62	2	70	2	43	4
Good	29	2	24	2	40	4
Fair or Poor	10	1	7	1	17	3
• Number of days during the past 30 that your . . .						
. . . mental health was not good:						
0 days	65	2	59	2	78	3
1-5 days	23	2	27	2	12	2
6-30 days	11	1	13	2	8	2
. . . physical health was not good:						
0 days	66	2	66	2	64	4
1-5 days	21	2	24	2	15	3
6-30 days	12	1	10	1	18	3
. . . health kept you from doing your usual activities (persons with 1+ days poor mental/physical health):						
0 days	66	3	67	3	61	5
1-5 days	21	2	23	3	16	4
6-30 days	12	2	10	2	20	4

.....TOBACCO USE/OPINION.....

	Age Groups					
	<i>All Adults</i>		<i>18-54</i>		<i>55 +</i>	
	<u>%</u>	<u>(+/-%)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>(+/-%)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>(+/-%)</u>
TOBACCO USE		*		*		*
• Current cigarette smoker	23	2	28	2	12	2
• Percent of smokers who quit for 1 day or longer in past year	50	5	52	5	ss	--
• Former cigarette smoker	25	2	19	2	39	4
TOBACCO OPINIONS						
• Smoking in indoor work areas should be allowed:						
...without restrictions	3	1	2	1	3	1
...only in designated areas	51	2	52	2	48	4
...not at all	45	2	45	2	46	4
• Support increased tax on cigarettes (if the money went to tobacco health and education):	77	2	78	2	73	3
Current smokers	59	4	63	5	ss	--
Former smokers	81	3	85	4	77	5
Non-smokers	83	2	84	2	79	4

OTHER RISK FACTORS FOR CHRONIC DISEASE

• Health professional has ever diagnosed:						
High blood pressure	23	2	15	2	43	4
High blood cholesterol	20	2	13	2	35	4
Diabetes	5	1	2	1	10	2

* 95% confidence interval
 ** See Technical Notes
 ss = Sample size too small (fewer than 100 cases)

.....FINDINGS FOR SELECTED YEARS.....

	1997		1995		1990	
	%	(+/-%)	%	(+/-%)	%	(+/-%)
	*		*		*	
HEALTH SCREENINGS						
• In the last year had:						
Routine check-up	64	2	67	2	62	3
Pap smear (Females)	59	3	58	3	na	--
Clinical breast exam (F)	64	3	64	3	63	4
Mammogram (F 50+)	57	4	50	4	39	6
INJURY PREVENTION						
• Tested smoke detectors in past month	36	2	37	2	na	--
• Always wears seatbelt	61	2	56	2	49	3
Male	51	3	46	3	39	4
Female	71	3	65	3	58	4
• Child always uses car safety seat or seatbelt (ages <16)	78	3	71	3	na	--
• Child always wears bike helmet (ages 5-15)	21	3	15	3	na	--
RISK BEHAVIORS						
• Current cigarette smoker	23	2	22	2	25	2
Male	26	3	24	4	26	4
Female	21	2	19	3	23	4
• Overweight	32	2	30	2	23	2
Male	36	3	34	2	26	4
Female	29	3	26	3	21	3
• In the past month...						
...had 60 or more drinks	5	1	4	1	5	1
Male	9	2	8	2	9	2
Female	2	1	1	1	2	1
...had 5 or more drinks on one occasion	23	2	23	2	27	2
Male	36	3	35	4	40	4
Female	11	2	12	2	15	3
...drove after having too much to drink	5	1	5	1	6	1
Male	9	2	7	2	9	2
Female	2	1	2	1	3	1

TECHNICAL NOTES

The Behavioral Risk Factor Survey is a representative, statewide telephone survey of Wisconsin household residents 18 years and older. Results are based on self-reports from respondents who are selected through a stratified random sample. Results are weighted to account for both nonresponse and sample design, and to adjust for the age-sex distribution of Wisconsin’s population. The survey was designed by the Bureau of Health Information in cooperation with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Survey sampling and interviewing were conducted by the Wisconsin Survey Research Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Extension.

In 1997, 1,576 respondents were 18 to 54 years old, and 669 were 55 or older. There were 2,210 respondents in 1995 and 1,260 in 1990.

Columns labeled (+/-%) indicate the 95% confidence interval associated with each estimate. For example, for all adults whose health is excellent or very good (62%), there is a 95% chance that the actual percentage falls within the range of plus or minus 2 percentage points (60%-64%).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided the following definitions: **Current smokers** are those who smoke currently, either every day or only some days, and have smoked more than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. The prevalence of **high blood cholesterol** is likely to be an underestimate because a significant proportion of adults have never had their cholesterol tested. The same is true for diabetes prevalence. **Child seatbelt/safety seat and bike helmet use** are based on respondent-reported behavior of the household’s oldest child less than 16 years old. **Overweight** is defined by the Body Mass Index (BMI), a calculation (weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared) using self-reported height and weight. A BMI greater than 27.3 for females and 27.8 for males is considered overweight. A **drink** of alcohol is defined as one can or bottle of beer, one glass of wine, one can or bottle of wine cooler, one cocktail, or one shot of liquor.

For additional information about the BRFSS, call Pamela Imm at 608-267-7264.
For other health data, visit our web site at
http://www.dhfs.state.wi.us/health_chs.

The Bureau of Health Information is part of the new Division of Health Care Financing in the Department of Health and Family Services. The Bureau of Health Information is comprised of the former Center for Health Statistics and the Office of Health Care Information.

BEHAVIORAL RISK
FACTORS

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